

Edwards Boosts Baylor & TSTC Aerospace Research

New Jobs Would be Created through Funds for Baylor Research and Innovation Collaboration (BRIC)

(WASHINGTON, DC) – Congressman Chet Edwards has secured \$2.3 million for the Baylor Research and Innovation Collaborative to invest in important aerospace engineering research conducted by Baylor and Texas State Technical College in the 2011 Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) Appropriations bill, which passed its respective House Appropriations Subcommittee Tuesday.

Specifically, Edwards secured \$1.5 million to support Baylor's partnership with Texas State Technical College that provides advanced composite research for aerospace operations at L3 Communications, and \$800,000 to support the Baylor Space Sciences Consortium research to design innovative space satellite hardware.

Congressman Edwards said, *"Supporting Baylor and TSTC aerospace researchers and their industry partners will help create jobs and promote economic growth in Central Texas while expanding quality technical undergraduate and graduate education in the Waco area. This research opportunity provides excellent hands-on experience and training for Baylor students in a growth industry, and it was a privilege to work with Baylor and TSTC leaders on this important project."*

Dr. Truell Hyde, Vice Provost for Research, Baylor University said, *“External funding is the lifeblood of a research university. Congressman Edwards has long been a strong supporter of Baylor research and the economic development such research brings to the region.”*

The advanced composite research partnership between Baylor and TSTC tests the carbon fiber composite materials for aircraft at L3. TSTC develops and implement training standards for future aviation technicians and follow-on training and re-certification curriculum for already qualified aviation technicians. Baylor and its partners estimate that **65 new jobs** will directly benefit from the advance composite research.

Dr. Truell Hyde said, *“This funding will provide the essential research personnel and equipment required to fully leverage Baylor's partnerships with Texas State Technical College and the University of Stuttgart to develop leading research and industry capabilities in space satellite hardware analysis and design. Funding for this infrastructure is a major step in providing the capabilities necessary for Baylor to compete at an international level in this arena. Composites research is rapidly becoming essential to the local aviation industry which in turn is vital to the regional economy. This funding, provided by Representative Edwards, will greatly enhance Baylor's ability to conduct the composites research and development necessary for continued growth in this exciting field.”*

Baylor estimates that **300 jobs** will be created with the construction of the BRIC by 2012, and it is expected that an additional **750 permanent jobs** will be created at Baylor, TSTC and other industries between 2012 and 2017. Respected economist Ray Perryman estimates that BRIC will create between **8,000 and 22,000 jobs** and add \$1.5 to \$4.2 billion to the local economy in the first 15 years.

Last year, Congressman Edwards secured funds for some of the first projects that will move into the BRIC including a Department of Defense avionics project, advanced composite research for new components of aircraft, and a machinist workforce development project.

In addition to the funds for BRIC, Edwards also secured \$350,000 for TSTC security surveillance and communications technology for campus police under the 2011 CJS bill. This technology will aid campus police who serve approximately 6,000 students, faculty and residents daily.

"We, at TSTC anticipate a positive outcome for the security enhancements appropriation brought forward by Congressman Edwards in the CJS bill recently released from committee," said

Elton E. Stuckly, Jr., President, Texas State Technical College Waco

"The college's budget has felt the impact of statewide budget cuts, so this is very good news for us. □ We appreciate Congressman Edwards going to bat for TSTC Waco."

Finally, \$140,000 was added to the 2011 Agriculture Appropriations bill for joint Biofuel Production research at Texas A&M Agrilife Center and Baylor University, which passed subcommittee Wednesday. This project is a collaboration between A&M and Baylor researchers and industry leaders in alternative fuels with the goal of maximizing the use of sorghum for the production of cellulosic biofuel.

The Commerce, Justice, and Science and Agriculture Appropriations bills must still pass the

House and Senate and be signed by the President.